REMARKS

Claims 7-17, 38-49, and 61-92 were pending in the application. Claims 7, 8, 17, 38, 39, 41, 61, 62, 73-76, 78, 82, and 91 have been amended. Claim 90 has been cancelled. New claims 93 and 94 have been added. Thus, claims 7-17, 38-49, 61-89, and 91-94 are now pending.

Claims 8, 17, 39, 41, 61, 62, 73-76, and 91 have been amended to correct for dependencies and formalities. Support for the amendments to claims 7 and 38 can be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. Support for the amendment to claim 78 and 82 can be found throughout the specification, including at page 10, lines 5-8. Support for new claims 93 and 94 can be found throughout the specification, including at page 10, lines 5-8. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and was done solely to expedite the prosecution of the application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

Rejection of Claims 7-17, 38-49, and 61-92 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 7-17, 38-49, and 61-92 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for use of the phrase "LT-β-R activating agent." The Examiner alleges that there does not appear to be adequate written description in the specification for use of the term.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant maintains that the instant specification provides multiple examples of LT-β-R activating agents in contrast to the Examiner's assertion. Applicant teaches how to make and use anti-LT-β-R antibodies which can be used in combination with additional LT-β-R activating agents, including, but not limited to, IFN-γ, IFN-α, TNF, and interferon inducing agents.

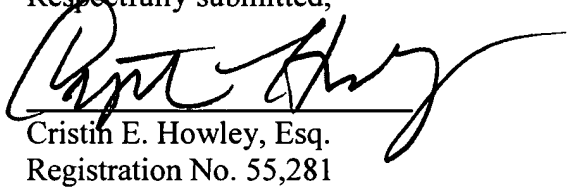
In the interest of expediting prosecution, however, Applicant has amended the claims to specify an anti-LT-β-R antibody. The amended claims are directed to methods for treating, reducing the advancement, severity or effect of neoplasia comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least two compositions, each composition comprising at least one anti-LT-β-R antibody and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The claimed invention is also directed to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least two anti-LT-β -R antibodies and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The claimed invention further describes a method for treating or reducing the advancement, severity or effects of neoplasia comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-LT-β-R antibody and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the composition is administered in the presence of an exogenous LT-β-R activating agent selected from the group consisting of IFN-α, TNF, an interferon inducing agent, and an anti-LT-β-R antibody.

In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejection of claims 7-17, 38-49, and 61-92.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. If a telephone conversation with Applicant's Attorney would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,



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